

EMS Leadership Conference Call  
August 1, 2013

Present: Jim Finger, John Kueffner, Kate Soons, Mark Podgwaite, Tom Goddard, Chris Bell, Jess Freire, Emily Lubell, Dan Wolfson, Jenna Protzko, Ray Walker, Donna Jacob, Adam Heuslein.

Updates:

Jess Freire – Education:

Conference has entered the planning stages, with provider postcards out, as well as a call for speakers. Posters also went to every head of service and to training officers. There is a conference call scheduled for Friday, August 9 at 1 p.m. for anyone interested in offering input into the planning process. Email [jessica.freire@state.vt.us](mailto:jessica.freire@state.vt.us) if interested

Work continues on Protocol development and training modules pertinent to protocol changes as well.

Emily Lubell – EMS for Children

Needs assessments are out to all ambulance services, but thus far the response rate is only 36%. Please reach out to your ambulance services and request a timely response to the survey, which looks at pediatric equipment onboard ambulances. Also ask your services to submit comments about barriers etc., that they may be facing.

Work on PEPP ongoing. Contracting phase and getting the third edition of the PEPP books.

Dr. Wolfson –

Protocols. Sent a draft to DMAs and received helpful comments. Now incorporating those comments along with information from external stakeholders. Very close to putting out a draft for public review. Once posted in draft form, we appreciate service heads, training officers and others reviewing and submitting comment. Once the final version is out, there will still be a time where new protocol training will be taking place both at agencies and through the LMS. Sometime in early fall will be go-live for full use. We look forward to your comments. Tom Goddard asked when they might expect to see the draft and how long the turnaround period would be. Chris noted there was a lot of DMA feedback being incorporated. Probably another week or so to finish it, clean up typos, headings, etc. Should be out in the next 2 weeks, and the public will probably have a 2-3 week deadline to submit comments. Hoping the only things that will be caught at that point will be drug doses, typos, etc.

Ray – Ambulance Inspection Tour

A complete tour of the state is coming up in a few weeks. Three people have been selected and employment details are being firmed up. To begin by 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August and will terminate the middle of Sept. In addition, these folks and a staffer from VT EMS will also meet with heads of service to review record-keeping procedures, listen to and share thoughts, ideas, and needs.

Adam asked about an equipment list. Ray noted that the requirements are the ACEP list that is linked on our website. He noted that a checklist could be posted once it was finalized.

Kate Soons -- When inspectors are meeting with heads of service, is that a review of files, training records, etc? Ray -- The letter that comes out will explain all of that. The consistent piece is the

inspection of ambulances. The other part of the visit will involve Mike, Jessica, Ray or Chris to discuss system processes, etc. and what to expect with credentialing. Ray referred folks to Section 2.6.6 of the EMS Rules, which gives a brief list of things that we'll be looking for: equipment, policies procedures maintenance records, training records, employment records, etc. Chris added that this is so folks will know what to expect in the future, not a "gotcha."

Jenna Protzko – SIREN

SIREN – Field Bridge contract still being processed in business office, so sorry no new updates. Image Trend awaits the start date and will contact the Service Admins with Field Bridge keys as soon as possible. Field Bridge training sessions will also be scheduled, hopefully one in each of 4 state corners. Version upgrade 5.9 just occurred. If you'd like the release notes and did not receive them electronically, let Jenna know. If you notice functionality issues, let her know that as well.

Services using third-party software – an email went out recently asking that effective immediately, NEMSIS V2 standard data be imported into SIREN. The data requested is from this point forward, as well as retroactive to January 1, 2013. Retroactive import may take time, so get a current data standard in place and then go back and work on the retroactive data.

Adam said there had been talk last year of a drop sheet and asked about the progress of that form. Jenna explained that with Image Trend's version upgrades, our plan for a drop form has changed. Now we can fill out as much on the patient care report as possible and print out a basic patient care pdf. If you have information in SIREN and you want to hand off a form as complete as it is at that point, print off the basic patient care report pdf to leave with the ED staff. Chris said that staff are happy to hear suggestions or questions, but with this system upgrade, our plan is to back off from implementing a drop form at this point.

Chris noted there have been significant changes recently for third party vendors. Because of the future upgrade to NEMSIS V3, ICD 10, and thus the need for a full SIREN version upgrade, we've opted not to have services using third-party software build a full bridge now and then another full bridge next year. This will mean only building the bridge once for NEMSIS V3. That's the reason behind the changes for third party vendors.

Chris Bell –

Conference – Submit speaker proposals and pass the word to those interested. Dates for the conference are October 24-27, 4 full days, with 2 days of preconference workshops on October 22-23. Anticipate costs to remain relatively fixed and the hotel rooms are cheaper this year. There's an ability to pay for the hotel room with or without water park tickets.

EMS special fund – A letter went out to district chairs and district training coordinators from Jess. The letter outlines the funding available from the special fund, with our best proposal at this point for distribution of funds. If you've not personally seen it, contact your chair or training coordinator and feel free to submit feedback. Plans for distribution be finalized very soon.

Jim Finger said he still is not getting emails.

Kate asked about feedback due from the EMS Advisory committee that's due in September. Kate explained that one of the items that the committee is tasked with reporting on is to address the possibility of consolidating districts along the 4 public safety districts. The 4 reps have been asked to reach out and gather feedback from their particular districts. If you haven't had those discussions, reach out to your representative and open discussions.

Chris asked the group if staff could do something to make these calls more useful? We'd traditionally done these and used to have 30 on the calls, but lately have had only about 8. We don't mind continuing them, but if there's something that would make them more useful...quarterly not monthly?....another way to get information? Happy to hear suggestions now or via email later.

Adam suggested an email reminder. Kate agreed, saying D3 does their best to have someone on the calls, although not always the same person. John Kueffner said he thought the calls were great, well run and should continue monthly.

Chris thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned.